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HOUSE PANELS BAR HELP FOR CONTRAS

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WASHINGTON, March 5 — Two House panels voted today to disapprove President Reagan's proposal to send \$100 million to the Nicaraguan insurgents.

The votes are only advisory, and the full House will still consider the issue, perhaps as early as next week. But lawmakers from both parties said that as a result of today's votes, they believed that the President's plan was in deep trouble.

The House Select Committee on Intelligence voted 9 to 7 against the proposal, with only one Democrat, Dan Daniel of Virginia, supporting the President. The 8-to-5 vote in the Western Hemisphere subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee was along strict party lines.

The votes today came as the Administration continued its strong lobbying campaign on behalf of the aid request. The President argued for his plan in two White House meetings, and Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger told the House Armed Services Committee that a failure to grant the aid request could eventually lead to the introduction of American troops in Central America.

Comments on Use of U.S. Force

Representative Floyd Spence, a South Carolina Republican, suggested to Mr. Weinberger that if Congress did not grant the Administration's aid request, and the contra force collapsed "the only alternative might be for us to intervene ourselves more directly in Central and South America."

"I think, ultimately, that could indeed be the case," the Secretary answered. Later, during the same answer, he added: "I think it is absolutely inevitable, and I know what the additional cost, not only in dollars but in human lives — this time American lives — would be."

Mr. Weinberger said that the point of the aid request was "to avoid that and prevent that." He said that the Administration "doesn't think it's necessary" to commit American troops to the region, as long as the contras are well-equipped and capable of holding their own against the Nicaraguan Army.

Plan From Democrats

In a related development, a group of House Democrats released their own plan for Central America that urged the Administration to make greater efforts at reaching a negotiated settlement in the region. Their specific suggestions included a six-month moratorium on American military maneuvers in Central America; a resumption of bilateral talks between Washington and Managua, and a meeting between President Reagan and the four Central American nations, known as the Contadora group, that are trying to broker a peaceful settlement with Nicaragua.

Representative Mel Levine of California, who headed the Democratic panel, said the President's program of aiding the insurgents and seeking a military solution in Nicaragua had been "ineffective and counter-productive."

"The President's policy," he said, "leads to increasing military activity. It's logical result will be direct American military involvement in Nicaragua. We reject that approach."

In addition, an official of the General Accounting Office told the Western Hemisphere subcommittee that the State Department was unable to provide a full accounting of \$27 million allocated by Congress last year to provide nonmilitary assistance to the Nicaraguan rebels.

'Diplomatic Sensitivities'

The official, Frank C. Conahan, testified that "diplomatic sensitivities" on the part of countries neighboring Nicaragua had prevented State Department officials from tracing the use of the money and making sure the items purchased for the rebels reached their destination.

Michael D. Barnes of Maryland, the subcommittee chairman, noted that Congress specifically required a detailed accounting of how the \$27 million had been used. "The Administration is not complying with the law," he told Mr. Conahan.

But Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs, argued that the main problem with the aid program was the "jerry-built" organization for delivering the funds ordered by Congress. When Congress appropriated the \$27 million, it specifically barred the Defense Department of the Central Intelligence Agency from supervizing the program.

At the time, Congress also set up a special procedure for considering any additional aid requests by the Administration. It is under that procedure that the White House has asked for \$100 million, including \$70 million for military aid and \$30 million for nonmilitary purposes. The procedure guarantees an up-or-down vote on the President's request by the full House and Senate, but a negative vote in either chamber would kill it.

'More Telling Us to Stay Out'

Representative Barnes argued today that in asking for \$70 million in military aid, the Administration "went too far, they went beyond what Congress is prepared to support."

Representative Harry M. Reid, a Nevada Democrat who is considered a potential swing vote on the issue, said he opposed the President today because nothing had changed in Central America since Congress had rejected a request for military assistance last year.

"In fact," said Mr. Reid, "we have more of our friends in the area telling us to stay out."